September 30, 2016

Next Friday...

NE Digestion Roundtable:
Special: East Bay MUD's ground-breaking, net-zero digestion & energy systems.
Join the free webinar!

Friday, October 7th, 12 Noon EDT
Have lunch!

Guest Presenter:
John Hake, Manager
Resource Recovery Program
East Bay Municipal Utility District Oakland, CA.

Details: http://www.nebiosolids.org/ne-digestion-roundtable

CHECK IT OUT...

Anaerobic Digestion Training: NEBRA is organizing another training class on AD - November 16th. Training hours provided. See the New Hampshire training schedule.

Vermont DEC has updated its biosolid “White Paper”. Access it here.

Manage Phosphorus in Organic Residuals:
Don't miss this Symposium! November 2, 2016 Marlborough, MA
Details & Registration...

ALERT: Revised Nutrient Regulations:
The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has just made public a proposed revision of its Plant Nutrient Regulations. NEBRA reviewed and commented on the initial version of these regulations and met with MDAR last December. The MA Farm Bureau and others also provided extensive input.

On initial reading, the proposed revision appears to have addressed some concerns of the agricultural community, e.g. less prescriptive winter-time application restrictions; even allowing for manure applications on snow-covered and frozen ground (under prescribed conditions; any such application is prohibited for biosolids by U. S. EPA 40 CFR Part 503). These are useful changes, providing farmers more flexibility.

However, the new proposed regulations seem to have expanded their scope considerably to include all non-agricultural lands, despite prior assurances from MDAR that it does not apply to home gardens, tree plantings, etc. NEBRA has requested clarification from MDAR about this.

The new proposed language includes an exception for a once-a-year application of no more than 0.25 lbs. P2O5 per 1000 square feet for biosolids, composts, and other organic residuals. This rate is far below recommended application rates for maintenance of turf and other uses...
Vermont DEC has updated its biosolids "White Paper." [Access it here](http://www.dec.state.vt.us/)

Summerside, PEI, which has a long history of land application of biosolids, is featured in a recent article.

**Featured in TPO:** Congratulations to Dave Driscoll of Concord, NH, the cover story of the September 2016 issue: [http://www.tpomag.com/magazine/2016/09](http://www.tpomag.com/magazine/2016/09)

The Wooster, OH upgrade & quasar digestion is also featured.


Casella Organics has plans to dry biosolids for [use as a fuel to replace coal](http://www.tpomag.com/magazine/2016/09).

Professor Sally Brown, PhD (University of WA) is blogging for *Huffington Post* on diverting and managing organics: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/sally-brown2](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/sally-brown2)

Professor Lynda McCarthy (Ryerson University) and her work are [highlighted in this online piece](http://www.tpomag.com/magazine/2016/09).

Professor Rolf Halden (Arizona State University) continues to look closely at wastewater solids. His team has measured trace chemicals, such as flame retardants, in stockpiled samples of biosolids. Now he is [looking at solids for clues about our health](http://www.tpomag.com/magazine/2016/09) and other signatures of human activities.

**NEWS from NEBRA**

Past news stories are available on the NEBRA website "News" page.

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MA Updates Biosolids Molybdenum Standard

It's official: the Massachusetts biosolids standard for molybdenum (Mo) is now 40 mg/kg. Over the past 16 months, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) reviewed the science, proposed a draft regulation change this spring, took public comment, and finalized the change effective a week ago. This is based on scientific risk assessment and is consistent with, for example, the standard in New York.

In June 2005, NEBRA brought together stakeholders in a workshop at which research scientists George O'Connor (University of Florida), Gary Van Riper, and Rufus Chaney (USDA) reviewed their work on the risks of molybdenum in soils and molybdenosis in ruminants. Their work showed that the former MassDEP standards for Mo in biosolids - a maximum of 25 mg/kg, and 10 mg/kg if used on land for ruminant feed - were outdated.

The new regulations also contain a requirement that the end user of the biosolids be informed of the small potential risk of molybdenosis under certain conditions.


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The Northeast Resi
October 12 & 13, 2016
Hotel Radisson
Cromwell, Connecticut

Special New Guest Speaker:
On Wednesday, Oct. 12th, in the opening session, Timothy Ellis of NY City DEP will provide an update on the City's plans for anaerobic digestion, co-digestion, and renewable energy production.

Regulation Roundtable:
Keynote: Learning from California's Revolutionary Climate Initiatives
Details & registration...

Less than 2 weeks to muster! On to Cromwell!

In Brief / en bref...
U. S. EPA is starting TNSSS 2.0 - a second round of testing of statistically representative samples of wastewater solids from around the lower 48 states. The results of the first Targeted National Sewage Sludge Survey were published by EPA in 2009 and included data on 145 analytes, including many pharmaceuticals and personal care product chemicals and other "contaminants of emerging concern." The new round of sampling and testing is still being developed, but will likely measure some of the same constituents and some new ones, such as per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFASs) and inorganic anions. The project will be managed by the Office of Science and Technology (OST).

Kern County, CA: A final court decision from the decade-long legal battle over Kern County's ban on use of imported biosolids ("Measure E") is expected this fall. Earlier this year, the court heard eight days of oral arguments, including expert testimony from biosolids researchers and experienced biosolids managers and regulators. Briefs detailing the arguments of both sides in this latest court contest are available; contact the NEBRA office.

The small mountain resort town of Bethel, Maine just bought a small, used Huber inclined screw press for $120,000 to plant operator Rob Gunderson.
The Water Environment & Reuse Foundation (WE&RF) has accepted a proposal to research the reclamation of fire-ravaged land using biosolids. "Targeted Collaborative Research" project, and much of its organizing is being done by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA). Participation and funding is being sought from around the continent, Australia, and globally. Contact Greg Kester at CASA (gkester@casaweb.org) or Allison Dienes at WE&RF (Adeines@werf.org) for more information and see: http://casaweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/TCR-Fire-Ravaged-Biosolids-Scope-DRAFT-092216-GK.pdf.